

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 SAJ-01

OMB-01 ACDA-19 INT-08 IO-14 SCI-06 CIEP-02 DRC-01

/189 W

----- 022777

P R 031910Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9514

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00128

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- TEXT --

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP

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SUMMARY: THE FRG REVEALS READINESS TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE

WITHIN THE EC IN SUPPORT OF THE ENERGY ACTION GROUP
BUT BEFORE DOING SO IT WANTS A CLEARER IDEA OF THE USG'S
THINKING ON THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ECON/COMMERCIAL
MINISTER, ECONOMICS MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LANTZKE
AND FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LAUTENSCHLAGER PRESENTED A CLEAR PICTURE OF CURRENT FRG
THINKING ON THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY
ACTION GROUP (EAG). BOTH OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT THERE
IS STRONG SUPPORT WITHIN THE FRG FOR THE EAG. THEY ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG HAS NOT PROVIDED A FORMAL REACTION
TO THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL DUE TO TWO FACTORS. FIRST,
THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS IN THEIR MINDS ABOUT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL AND SECOND, IN
LANTZKE'S WORDS "WE MUST FIRST TRY TO GET A COMMON EC
POSITION." BOTH OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THE FRG INTEND-
ED TO USE THE LEVERAGE OF ITS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EC
COUNCIL TO PUSH FOR A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE EAG PROPO-
SAL.

2. ON THE FIRST POINT THESE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE FRG
WAS RELUCTANT TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE UNTIL IS HAD A
CLEAR VIEW OF THE USG'S THINKING ON SPECIFIC DETAILS OF
THE EAG. THE QUESTIONS THESE OFFICIALS POSED TO US
WERE - WHO WILL CONVENE THE GROUP? WHAT WILL BE THE INFRA
STRUCTURE OF THE GROUP? WHAT TOPICS WILL IT COVER?
OUR SOURCES SAID THAT AMBASSADOR VON STADEN INTENDED TO
RAISE THESE SAME QUESTIONS WITH THE SECRETARY THIS WEEK
ON THE ISSUE OF COMMON EC POLICY LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID
THAT NOTHING COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED UNTIL THE PROBLEM OF
AN EC REGIONAL FUND HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

3. AS REGARDS FRG THINKING ON THE EAG, OUR SOURCES
STILL CONSIDER THE OECD TO BE THE BEST FORUM. ALL THE
PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS ARE REPRESENTED THERE. THE OECD
HAS AN EXCELLENT SECRETARIAT AND IT HAS THE EXPERIENCE
OF DEALING WITH HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS. OUR SOURCES SAID
THEY ENVISAGED THE EAG TO BE COMPRISED OF A GROUP OF
HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS DRAWN FROM A CROSS SECTION OF
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NATIONALITIES AND FIELDS OF EXPERTISE (E.G. OIL,
MONETARY, RESEARCH, ETC.) THEY ENVISAGE A BRAINSTORMING
SESSION ALONG THE LINES OF THE EARLIER REY GROUP. OUR
SOURCES ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THERE WOULD EVENTUALLY

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9515

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 00128

HAVE TO BE SOME PRODUCER PARTICIPATION IN THE EAG THAT
THIS SHOULD ONLY COME IN A SECOND STAGE AFTER THE
CONSUMER COUNTRIES HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FORMULATE
A COMMON POSITION.

4. LAUTENZCHLAGER STATED THAT WHILE IT WAS ONE THING TO
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PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE A GOOD IDEA IT WAS OFTEN FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT IT. IN THIS REGARD HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH WOULD BE THE BIGGEST STUMBLING BLOCK TO A COMMON EC POSITION IN SPITE OF HEATH'S PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE EAG. HE STATED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CONSUMER GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS AND THAT HERETO THE OECD OFFERED THE ADVANTAGE OF ENABLING EC MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BEGINNINGS OF A DIALOGUE WITHOUT HAVING TO FIRST HAMMER OUT A COMMON EC POSITION.

5. COMMENT: THE FRG SEEMS TO BE PREPARING TO MAKE FULL USE OF ITS POWERS AS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO PUSH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON EC ENERGY POLICY. THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT DOCUMENT PROVIDES THE BASIC FRAMEWORK OF A COMMON EC ENERGY POLICY AND THE FRG INTENDS TO KEEP ON THE PRESSURE TO SEE THAT THE SUMMIT DECISIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED. FRG IS ALSO READY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN FOCUSING EC ATTENTION ON THE EAG PROPOSAL. LAUTENSCHLAGER EMPHASIZED THAT THE GERMANS WOULD BE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS AND THAT THEY WOULD TAKE THESE RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY. THEY ARE CLEARLY WAITING FOR THE US TO TAKE THE LEAD IN FLESHING OUT THIS PROPOSAL HOWEVER.
HILLENBRAND

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